

Loud & Clear

SPRING 2006 • Volume 18, No. 2

Sight & Sound Tech Quest Assistive Technology and Resource Fair

Come to the Fair!

Come one, come all to Tech Quest 2006, our exciting and **free** assistive technology and resource fair! Get acquainted with the latest sight and sound technologies and learn how people with disabilities can continue to enjoy reading and other pleasures of daily life!

Date: Friday, May 19, 2006

Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Place: Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax, VA 22035**

For directions to the Government Center, please call Access Services at 703-324-8380, TTY 703-324-8365; e-mail us at access@fairfaxcounty.gov; or visit our Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

The exhibits will include technology vendors, service organizations,



Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012 703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365
FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: access@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

and Fairfax County agencies (including Access Services!). You will have many opportunities to ask questions; participate in technology demonstrations; pick up information and handouts; and even win door prizes from the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia. Exhibit tables will open promptly at 10 a.m. on May 19 in the North Atrium of the Government Center. The North Atrium is located on the first floor near the Access Services suite. See below for a complete list of exhibitors.

As you enjoy Tech Quest, we hope you will stop by our hospitality area in Room 123C (just inside our office suite) for coffee, tea, light refreshments and more. You will be able to chat with Access Services staff members and meet Ed Kukulka, one of the Fairfax County Public Library's technology experts. Ed will have a special display in the hospitality room, where he will show you an array of electronic marvels and give you one-on-one help if you want to try them.

When you need a lunch break, go to the bright and cheerful Government Center cafeteria located near the Access Services suite. The cafeteria offers a variety of hot and cold sandwiches, salads and full meals at reasonable prices.

New to this year's fair is a roster of informative and inspiring speakers:

10:30 a.m. -11 a.m. Eddie Timanus. Eddie is a sports writer for *USA Today* and a former "Jeopardy" winner. He is blind, and will talk about how technology comes into play in his very successful professional and personal life.

11 a.m. - Noon. Dr. Joey Wallace. Dr. Wallace directs the Virginia Assistive Technology Loan Financing Authority of the Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS). He is the author of multiple publications on disability-related topics and will have many gadgets to demonstrate during his presentation on what VATS can offer Virginia residents with sight and hearing disabilities.

1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Dr. Suleiman Alibhai. Dr. Alibhai is a low-vision specialist and heads Inova's Hazel E.R. Widner Low Vision Center. His presentation, "The Use of Assistive Technology in the Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired Individuals," will discuss the ways and means of continuing to lead a full and independent life after vision loss.

2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. We are honored to have as our closing speaker the Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and the Physically Handicapped (NLS), **Frank Kurt Cylke**. Mr. Cylke will close our fair with a short talk that looks to the future: "The Digital World: Broken Field Running with a Touchdown in Sight." The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

See you at the fair!

**Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend.
Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.**

— Groucho Marx

Exhibitors at Tech Quest 2006:

Access Services Friends

Access Services Library / Fairfax County Public Library

Adapt2C

Central Vision Solutions

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind

Duartek

Enabled Access

Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging / SeniorNavigator.org

Fairfax County Dept. of Public Safety

Fairfax County Disability Services

Fairfax County Office of Equity

Fastran / MetroAccess

Humanware

Inova Hazel E.R. Widner Low Vision Center

Lions Club of Va. District 24-A Special Needs Equipment

Metropolitan Washington Ear

National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, Fairfax Chapter

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Persons (NVRC)

Prevention of Blindness Society

Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS North)

Virginia Dept. for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Virtual Vision Technologies

Wintech

Special thanks to the Fairfax Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia; the friends and family of Mrs. Grace Berghorn; and other generous donors whose support helped make the fair possible.

Help Enrich Your Community! Become a Friend of Access Services!

Library branches of the Fairfax County Public Library are aided by their Friends groups. These individual groups support, assist and promote library activities. Every Friends group makes valuable contributions to the entire library, as well as their own branch. Our Friends group is newly formed and is seeking members. You can become actively involved or simply have the satisfaction of supporting a worthwhile cause. Please call Access Services to learn more and become a member today! It is the mission of the Access Services Friends of the Library to:

1. Encourage and support library services which are accessible to disabled persons;
 2. Advise the Access Services Manager about services and resources from the clientele's perspective;
 3. Promote communication with potential users;
 4. Assist with acquisition of resources; and
 5. Encourage library programs that expand public awareness of library resources available to disabled persons.
-

Elders and Families

The Administration on Aging Web site (www.aoa.gov) has an Elders and Families section designed to assist older persons and their caregivers. You can find information and resources on a variety of aging-related topics. The information will help you become more familiar with issues affecting older adults, and the services and opportunities available to assist them. The following topics are found on the Web site.

- Alzheimer's Resource Room
- Disaster Assistance
- Elder Rights & Resources
- For Caregivers
- Housing
- How to Find Help
- Nutrition
- Promoting Healthy Lifestyles
- Services for Seniors
- Volunteer Opportunities



AFB Press ePublications Are Here!

The American Foundation for the Blind is pleased to announce the launch of AFB Press ePublications. What are ePublications? They are the latest option in information delivery for you. Selected texts and articles are now available for purchase and access online. You can choose to buy a full text or as many chapters as you need. Then you can view, print or download them as often as you wish for one full year. Call 1-800-232-5463; TTY 711 or go to the organization's Web site for more information: www.afb.org/epublications.

Talking Book Loan Period

Talking Books are loaned for four weeks. Please contact Access Services if you need more time to finish a book. We regularly contact customers to return overdue books because another customer may be waiting to read the book. For the most efficient service, please return each book as you finish it. Fines are not assessed by NLS.

Reader Advisors

All Talking Book and home delivery customers are assigned a reader advisor. He or she can help you locate book titles and authors and assist you with book selection. Call Access Services to find out the name of your reader advisor.

Spring Into Action and Order a Good Talking Book Today!

Here are a few springtime selections. Call your reader advisor for more suggestions!

April Fool Dead: A Death on Demand Mystery by Carolyn Hart. *RC 54054*

In her South Carolina island hometown, bookstore owner Annie Darling distributes fliers advertising an author's book signing. Then someone plays a vicious joke with counterfeit fliers accusing residents of various crimes. Annie ties the bogus fliers into the murders of a teacher and, later, a student.

April 1865: The Month That Saved America

by Jay Winik. *RC 52027*

In April 1865, as the war ends, the Confederate capitol – Richmond – lies in ruins. Generals Robert E. Lee and Joe Johnston surrender their armies, and President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated. Remarkably, the author contends, the nation survives. Analyzes the reasons for the unusually successful conclusion to a republic's civil war. Bestseller.

The Ultimate Container Gardener: All You Need to Know to Create Plantings for Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter

by Stephanie Donaldson. *RC 54750*

Describes how to display flowers, herbs, and other plants in baskets, window boxes, or hanging containers for both inside and outside the home. Advice with instructions for year-round cultivation and selection of items for color, fragrance, and location.

Screwball

by David Ferrell. *RC 58514*

When the Boston Red Sox acquire rookie Ron Kane and his scorching fastball, it could mean the end of "the curse" and an 80-year slump. Manager Augie Sharkey anticipates a great season, but something isn't quite right: it seems wherever they play, a killer strikes. Violence and strong language.

Game Time: A Baseball Companion by Roger Angell, edited by Steve Kettmann. RC 58307

Sportswriter Steve Kettmann compiles his favorite Roger Angell baseball essays, spanning 1962-2002. The pieces profile players such as Willie Mays, Bob Gibson, Pete Rose, and David Cone, as well as the various teams and spring training camps that he's studied. Introduction by Richard Ford.

The American Yoga Association's Easy Does It Yoga: The Safe and Gentle Way to Health and Well-Being by Alice Christensen. RC 54110

A beginning breathing, exercise and meditation program for older adults and those with medical conditions or a sedentary lifestyle. Discusses nutrition, meditation, philosophy and stress-reducing techniques. Lists routines that can be used in a wheelchair or bed.

New Members Wanted

National Capital Citizens with Low Vision meets every month from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Cleveland Park Library in Washington, D.C., located near a metro stop. Assistance with using public transportation to get to meetings is available. The group usually eats out after each meeting. Activities include speakers, assistive technology demos, hiking, and networking. Annual dues are \$20.00 (\$15.00 for seniors). For more information and the date of the next meeting, call 703-645-8716; TTY 711 or e-mail ncclv@yahoo.com.

Theater Alerts

The Audio Description Theater Alerts is a service of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Accessibility Office. By subscribing to this free e-mail service, you will receive a once-a-month update on which programs are being audio-described at the Kennedy Center and other theaters around town. To subscribe, please send an e-mail to access@kennedy-center.org and in the subject field type in "subscribe Audio Description Theater Alerts" and in the body of the e-mail type in your name, e-mail address, and snail-mail address. You may also call the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 202- 416-8727; TTY 202- 416-8728. We hope you will find the Audio Description Theater alerts useful and will share them with your friends!

Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)

The Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS), established in 1990 is committed to improving the quality of life for all Virginians by increasing awareness and accessibility of assistive technology. In our area, VATS North is the regional site located at the Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities at George Mason University. They provide assistive technology support services, information and referral services, and funding options for purchase of assistive technology. For more information about VATS, call 703-993-3670; TTY 711; e-mail VATSNorth@aol.com or go to the Northern Regional Web site www.kihd.gmu.edu.

Vision Support Groups

Access Services sponsors five support groups for adults who are losing or have lost their vision. The groups meet monthly at locations in Alexandria, Fairfax, Reston, Springfield and Vienna to share experiences, talk about mutual interests, and explore resources and assistive technology. Friends, family members, and caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call or e-mail Access Services for information about upcoming meetings or to contact a group leader.

**The most valuable thing I have learned
from life is to regret nothing.**

– Somerset Maugham

Coping Collection

Would you like more information about a visual impairment, hearing loss or adapting your home for a wheelchair? These and many other subjects are included in our "Coping Collection." These print books can be requested by phone or reserved online with a Fairfax County Public Library card. Call Access Services or visit the library Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Some of our newest additions to our print collection include:

ADAPT My World – Homemade Adaptations for People with Disabilities by J. Rose Plaxen. *649.151 P*

This book features homemade adaptations, in recipe book form for children with disabilities at home, school and play.

Deaf Women's Lives: Three Self-Portraits by Bainy Cyrus, Eileen Katz, Celeste Cheyney and Frances M. Parsons. *305.908 D*

Three deaf women with widely varying stories share their experiences in this unique collection.

Easy for You to Say by Miriam Kaufman. *362.1989 K*

This is a revised addition of questions and answers for teens living with chronic illness or disabilities.

Funding for Persons With Visual Impairments: 2005 Large Print Edition by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. *362.41 F*

You can find more than 260 scholarships, fellowships, loans, grants-in-aid, awards and internships set aside specifically for persons with visual impairments.



Living in the State of Stuck *by Marcia J. Scherer.*
362.4028 S

This book serves as both a mouthpiece for the disabled and an analysis of different types of assistive technology.

One Person at a Time – Citizen Advocacy for People With Disabilities *by Adam Hildebrand.* 362.4 H

The focus of this book is to encourage personal engagement in the lives of people with and without disabilities.

Braille Bug Web Site

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) created a Web site for children of all ages who are interested in learning about Braille. Follow the Braille Bug to play games; enjoy riddles and rhymes; see your name in Braille and learn about Louis Braille. Catch the Braille Bug at www.afb.org/braillebug.

Fairfax County Public Library Services

Got a question? Fairfax County librarians are here to help you whether you are at home, work or school. You can ask a librarian LIVE! This is an online chat. You can also e-mail, call or visit a library branch. The reference staff is available:

Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday Noon – 6 p.m.

Find the Ask-a-Librarian link on the Fairfax County Public Library Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Staff News!

Please welcome **Robert Harsher** our new home delivery library aide. Robert comes to Access Services with five years of experience from the Chantilly Regional Library. He is a nature lover and avid outdoorsman with a Bachelor of Arts in biology from George Mason University. Robert is his father's and grandmother's caregiver. His grandmother, Dorothy, celebrated her 102nd birthday in February. Please join us in welcoming a great addition to our Access Services family!

**Life appears to be too short to be spent in
nursing animosity or registering wrong.**

– Charlotte Bronte

Loud & Clear

Editors:

Royce Zivan
Pat Bangs

Graphics:

Lorrie Bennett
Johnny Goodyear

- Loud & Clear is published quarterly by the
- Access Services branch of the Fairfax
- County Public Library,
- 12000 Government Center Parkway,
- Suite 123, Fairfax, VA 22035.
- 703-324-8380; TTY 703-324-8365
- ©2006 Fairfax County Public Library.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library



A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia



Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request
Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703- 324-8365.

Loud and Clear Format

We hope you are enjoying your quarterly newsletter. You may be receiving *Loud and Clear* in print or on cassette. We can also e-mail or Braille *Loud and Clear* for you. *Loud and Clear* is available online (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Please call or e-mail Access Services if you would like to change the way that you are currently receiving this newsletter.

Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035-0012
703-324-8380 TTY 703-324-8365

FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped Manual PT.138

Loud and Clear Format

We hope you are enjoying your quarterly newsletter. You may be receiving *Loud and Clear* in print or on cassette. We can also e-mail or Braille *Loud and Clear* for you. *Loud and Clear* is available online (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Please call or e-mail Access Services if you would like to change the way that you are currently receiving this newsletter.

Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035-0012
703-324-8380 TTY 703-324-8365

PRST STD
US. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 45
FAIRFAX, VA